

Message Text

PAGE 01 TOKYO 11476 061100Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

OMB-01 DRC-01 /098 W

----- 021021

P 060948Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6541

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 11476

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JA, KS

SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE-SEPTEMBER 6

SUMMARY: ALL JAPANESE MEDIA WED EVENING AND THURS MORNING GAV SATURATION COVERAGE TO LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE. FOR FIRST TIME GOJ PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED SUSPICION THAT ROK EMB OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN ABDUCTION, AS MOFA VICE MIN SHINSAKU HOGEN CALLED ROK AMB LEE HO TO MOFA TO REQUEST THAT ROK EMB FIRST SECTY KIM DONG-WOON APPEAR BEFORE POLICE VOLUNTARILY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS ROLE IN ABDUCTION. REJECTION OF GOJ REQUEST BY AMB LEE MOVED INCIDENT INTO NEW AND FAR MORE DIFFICULT STAGE, WITH GRAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS. GOJ LEADERS, MINDFUL OF JAPAN'S LONG-TERM INTERESTS IN ROK, CONTINUED TO SPEAK WITH MODERATION, BUT THEIR VIEWS WERE ALMOST SUBMERGED IN TORRENT OF FACTUAL COVERAGE BY MEDIA OF POLICE REVLEATIONS FOR FIRST TIME ALLEGING PROOF OF INVOLVEMENT OF ROK OFFICIALS IN CASE. MEDIA COMMENTARY SUGGESTS CLEAR THAT GOJ SUPPORT OF ROK CAUSE IN UNGA SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED GIVEN CONTINUED ROK INTRANSIGENCE TOWARD COOPERATION TO RESOLVE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 11476 061100Z

1. ALL JAPANESE MEDIA WED EVENING AND THURS MORNING FULLY REPORT-ED FACT THAT VICE MIN SHINSAKU HOGEN SUMMONED ROK AMB LEE HO TO MOFA TO PRESENT GOJ REQUEST THAT FIRST SECTY KIM DONG-WOON APPEAR BEFORE POLICE VOLUNTARILY TO ANSER QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS INVOLVE-

MENT IN KIM TAE-CHUNG ABDUCTION. REQUEST SAID TO BE MADE ON BASIS OF POLICE EVIDENCE OF INVOLVEMENT. AMB LEE REJECTED REQUEST ON INSTRUCTIONS OF ROK GOVT. THIS VIEWED BY MEDIA AS CREATING NEW SITUATION IN WHICH RESOLUTION OF CASE TO SATISFACTION OF BOTH COUNTRIES HAS BEEN MADE FAR MORE DIFFICULT.

2. WITHOUT COOPERATION OF KIM DONG-WOON, YOMIURI STATED, GOJ INTENDS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH OWN INVESTIGATION. SHOULD POLICE EVIDENCE SUBSTANTIATE KIM'S INVOLVEMENT, GOJ WOULD DECLARE HIM PNG. KIM REPORTED ELSEWHERE TO HAVE LEFT JAPAN AUG 19. HOWEVER, YOMIURI ALSO STATED THAT GOJ WOULD AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE BEFORE CONSIDERING CHANGE IN ITS POLICY TOWARD ROK, INCLUDING POSSIBLE DIPLOMATIC ACTION SUCH AS DEMAND FOR RESTORATION OF STATUS QUO ANTE FOR KIM TAE-CHUNG, APOLOGY BY ROK FOR INFRENGEMENT OF JAPANESE SOVEREIGNTY OR COMPENSATION BY ROK.

3. FONMIN MASAYOSHI OHIRA MET PRESS AFTER ROK AMB REJECTED HOGEN REQUEST. OHIRA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT GOJ WOULD CONSIDER MEASURES TO BE TAKEN QTE ALONG LINES OF INTERNATIONAL COMMON SENSE UNQTE. OHIRA EMPHASIZED THAT JAPAN HAS NO INTENTION OF CHANGINGS ITS FUNDAMENTAL POLICY TOWARD ROK, AND CITED NECESSITY TO HANDLE CASE FAIRLY IN MANNER ACCEPTABLE AT HOME AND ABROAD IN INTERST OF SETTLING IT IN MANNER WHICH WOULD NOT IMPAIR FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF QTE DARK PAST UNQTE IN JAPAN-KOREA RELATIONS, OHIRA SAID THAT HE COULD NOT DENY THE EXISTENCE OF SOME CONCERN THAT FIAR HANDLING OF CASE WOULD BE DIFFICULT. NEVENTHELESS, OHIRA POINTED OUT THAT BOTH COUNTRIES ARE INDEPENDENT AND DEAL WITH EACH OTHER AS EQUALS. OHIRA REITERATED THAT IT ESSENTIAL TO SECURE FAIR SETTLEMENT ON BASIS ON DUE CONSIDERATION OF NEED TO MAINTAIN LONGTERM FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES IN FUTURE. CAUTIONING THAT FURTHER COOPERATION BY ROKG WOULD BE REQUESTED SHOULD VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE OF OTHERS ALSO INVOLVED IN CASE BECOME NECESSARY, OHIRA HINTED THAT SEVERAL OTHER ROKG OFFICIALS MAY BE INVOLVED IN ABDUCTION.

4. ALSO FOLLOWING AMB LEE REJECTION OF HOGEN REQUEST, CHIEF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TOKYO 11476 061100Z

CABINET SECTY SUSUMU NIKAIDO TOLD PRESS THAT HE HAS NO OTHER COURSE BUT TO ACCEPT FACT THAT ROKG AGENTS WERE INVOLVED IN KIM TAE-CHUNG ABDUCTION. NIKAIDO WARNED THAT FUTURE GOJ HANDLING OF CASE DEPENDS ON RESULT OF CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH ROKG THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, BUT DECLINED TO SPECULATE ON IMPACT ON JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS OF DISCLOSURE THAT ROK EMB OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN ABDUCTION. NIKAIDO ALSO CONFIRMED THAT GOJ POLICY TO PROBE CASE IN REASONABLE MANNER REMAINS UNCHANGED.

5. IN SECOND MEETING WITH PRESS LATER, NIKAIDO SAID THAT AMB USHIROKU HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST THAT ROKG RECONSIDER ITS REJECTION OF GOJ REQUEST FOR VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE BY KIM DONG-

WOON.

6. NATIONAL POLICY AGENCY SECURITY BUREAU DIRECTOR SHIZUHIKO YAMAMOTO READ SI-PAGE STATEMENT TO PRESS EXPLAINING BASIS FOR GOJ REQUEST FOR VOLUNTARY APPEARANCE BY KIM DONG-WOON. YAMAMOTO STATED THAT METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPT HAS ADEQUATE EVIDENCE TO SEEK COURT WARRANT FOR KIM'S ARREST, BUT HAS NOT DONE SO BECAUSE OF HIS DIPLOMATIC STATUS. POLICE SOURCES QUOTED BY PRESS STATE THAT KIM DONG-WOON'S FINGERPRINTS FOUND IN GRAND PALACE HOTEL ROOM WHERE KIM TAE-CHUNG TAKEN BRIEFLY BY ABDUCTORS. IN ADDITION, POLICE SOURCES WRE QUOTED TO REVEAL THAT TWO EYEWITNESSES LINK KIM DONG-WOON TO ABDUCTEE. ON BAI OF PHOTOS, BOTH EYE-WITNESSES HAVE IDENTIFIED HIM TAE-CHUNG AND KIM DONG-WOON AS MEMBERS OF PARTY OF FIVE KOREANS WITH WHOM THEY SHARED ELEVATOR IN GRAND PALACE HOTEL ABOUT TIME OF ABDUCTION. FURTHER, BOTH CLAIM TO HAVE HEARD KIM TAE-CHUNG CRY OUT AT FIRST FLOOR QTE MURDERERS. HELP. UNQTE. KIM DONG-WOON REPORTED TO HAVE RETURNED TO ROK AUG 10 FOR ONE WEEK, AND AGAIN AUG 19 AFTER TWO-DAY STAY IN JAPAN.

7. POLICE SOURCES ALSO CITED FOR PRESS REPORTS THAT THIRTEEN MEMBERS OF QTE CERTAIN ROK AGENCY UNQTE ARRIVED IN JAPAN FROM SEOUL SHORTLY BEFORE ABDUCTION AUG 8. IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS CONFIRM ONLY THAT SEVEN OF THESE DEPARTED JAPAN, AND DENY KNOWLEDGE OF WHEREABOUTS OF REMAINING SIX. IMPLICATION THUS CLEAR THAT SIX DEPARTED JAPAN ILLEGALLY, PROBABLY ON BOARD SHIP WITH KIM TAE-CHUNG. POLICE FURTHER QUOTED AS HAVING NO DOUBT THAT ALL THIRTEEN INVOLVED IN ABDUCTION.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 TOKYO 11476 061100Z

8. IN ADDITION, POLICE OFFICIALS HAVE DECIDED TO SUMMON OFFICIALS FROM ROK CONSULATE IN KOBE FOR QUESTIONING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON SUSPICION THAT THEY ACTUALLY SPIRITED KIM TAE-CHUNG OUT OF JAPAN BY SHIP AFTER HE HAD BEEN CARRIED TO KANSAI. KIM TAE-CHUNG HIMSELF, IN DEPOSITION FORWARDED TO GOJ AUG 31, REPORTED OVER-HEARING CAPTORS SAY QTE TAKE HIM TO AHN HOUSE UNQTE. AHN POSSESSES OFFICIAL NOT DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, AND IS NOT RPT NOT ASSIGNED TO ROK CONSULATE IN KOBE AS DIPLOMAT.

9. DETAILED REPORTING OF ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF ROK OFFICIALS IN ABDUCTION HAS LED TO PRESS COMMENTARIES THAT JAPAN WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT ROK AT UN, UNLESS CASE SETTLED BY TIME KOREAN ITEM DEBATED BY UNGA. IN ADDITION, REFERENCE FREQUENTLY MADE TO TEMPORARY HALT IN ECONOMIC AID TO ROK BY FRG TO GAIN RELEASE OF KOREAN STUDENTS FORCIBLY REPATRIATED IN 1967. INVARIABLY THIS COUPLED WITH SUGGESTION THAT CONTINUED ROK REFUSALXO COOPERATE LEAVES JAPAN LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO TEMPORARILY HALT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ROK, WHICH ADMITTEDLY WOULD STRIKE SERIOUS BLOW TO PRESTIGE OF PRESIDENT PARK.

10 COMMENT: DESPITE CONTINUED ATTEMPTS BY FONMIN OHIRA AND OTHER
GOJ LEADERS TO VIEW KIM CASE IN PERSPECTIVE OF JAPAN'S LONG-
TERM INTEREST IN ROK, PRESS COVERAGE OF FACTS OF CASE COULD WELL
INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION IN JAPAN AGAINST FURTHER COOPERATION
WITH ROK. AS RECENTLY AS LAST WEEK SOME OPPOSITION PARTY OFFICALS
HERE CONFIDED IN EMBOFF THAT ULTIMATE SOLUTION OF ISSUE MIGHT LIE
IN CREDIBLE DENIAL BY BOTH GOJ AND ROKG THAT ROK OFFICIALS IN-
VOLVED COUPLED WITH RETURN OF KIM TAE-CHUNG TO JAPAN. THIS OPTION,
HOWEVER, HAS NOW DISAPPEARED AND POLITICAL OBSERVERS ARE NO
LONGER CERTAIN OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF CASE. END COMMENT.
SHOESMITH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO11476
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730964/abqcekwb.tel
Line Count: 176
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Nov-2001 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <17-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COVERAGE OF KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE-SEPTEMBER 6
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JA, KS
To: STATE INFO SEOUL
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005